(ग) राजस्थान, गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश आदि जैसे कुछ राज्यों में अगस्त तथा मध्य सितम्बर 1993 के दौरान लम्बे समय तक सूखा पड़ने, मानसून के बाद के मौसम (अक्तूबर—दिसम्बर) 1993 के दौरान कम वर्षा होने तथा अपेक्षाकृत उर्वरकों की खपत में कमी होने के कारण 1993-94 के दौरान खाद्यानों का उत्पादन लक्ष्य से कम हुआ।

Effect of Gatt Agreement on Indian Agriculture

1546. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what will be the effect of the GATT Agreement on the Indian Agricultural Sector and on the Indian farmers ; and

(b) whether Indian Farmers will be free to produce, preserve, sell and sow the seeds produced by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The GATT Agreement on Agriculture would benefit both the Indian Agriculture Sector and the Indian farmers. It would provide increased market access for the export of our agricultural commodities to other Member countries without however, making it obligatory for us to import. Whereas we do not have any obligation to undertake subsidy reduction commitments our agricultural products would become more competitive in the international market, due to subsidy reductions by other countries.

(b) The sui-generis system of law proposed to be formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture will safeguard the traditional inalienable rights of our farmers to produce, preserve, sell and sow the non-branded seed on a non-commercial basis.

Production of Rice

1547. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated production of Rice during the year 1993-94 ; and

(b) whether Government intends to import rice in the year 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) According to the present assessment, the production of rice for the country as a whole during 1993-94 is expected to be about 74.0 million tonnes.

(b) There is no proposal to import rice during 1994-95.

Investment in Agricultural Research

1548. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that investment in agricultural research and technology is stagnating at 0.32 per cent of the total agricultural GDP for the last two decades in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have so far taken or propose to take in this regard to motivate farmers to take agriculture as a commercial profession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Sir, the details of expenditure are presented in the enclosed Statement. (See below).

This does not include expenditure by the State Governments on the State Agriculture Universities and other research units operated by them. Since agriculture is a State subject, such expenditures are quite significant.

(c) The Government has taken steps to provide for the timely announcement of prices and making available inputs at the right time to help farmers to go for crops having higher commercial value. Ministry will also implement crop production scheme and transfer of technology programmes for exposing farmers to the latest technologies.